

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) An adaptive communication method for notifying ~~an information notified to a person of to be notified of the information, which relates to a~~ the ability function of any of a plurality of pieces of equipment, equipment forming from a distributed system consisting of the plurality of pieces of ~~of which each of the plurality of~~ equipment that is interconnected over a transmission medium and that includes one or more arithmetic units, said adaptive communication method comprising the steps of:  
~~acquiring a first step in which any of the plurality of equipment acquires environmental information, which indicates indicating an environment in which the plurality of pieces of equipment is installed, at least a predetermined time earlier than before the time instant at which when the information is notified, of the function is informed to the person;~~  
~~determining a second step in which any of the plurality of equipment determines a notification method way of notifying the information to be notified to the person of information according to the acquired environment information acquired by the first step and the contents of information to be notified~~

before the time at when the information of the function is informed to the person; and

notifying a third step in which one of the plurality of equipment notifies the information to be notified to the person of the information according to the determined way of information notification method determined by the second step.

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2. (Currently Amended) An adaptive communication method according to Claim 1, wherein the environment information is at least one of time information concerning the ability function of equipment, equipment information concerning equipment connected over the transmission medium, location information concerning the information notified of the person, a level of attention at which the information notified person is attracted attention, an object of attention to which the information notified person is attracted attention, identification information with which the information notified person is identified, the contents or amount of information, information concerning an apparatus used to notify information, and ambient information concerning the plurality of pieces of equipment.

3. (Currently Amended) An adaptive communication method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of suspending ~~the third step notification of the information notified person of information according to the environment information obtained by the second step.~~

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4. (Currently Amended) An adaptive communication method according to Claim 1, wherein the notification method comprises at least one of changing a condition for ~~notification of the information notified to the person of information~~ according to the environment information, changing the contents of information, changing the apparatus used to notify information, changing a range of information notification, changing a priority given to information notification, changing the frequency of information notification, and splitting the contents of notified information is carried out in order to determine the way of information-notification method.

5. (Currently Amended) Equipment used in forming a distributed system that consists of a plurality of ~~pieces~~ of equipment being interconnected over a transmission medium and

including one or more arithmetic units and that notifies predetermined information, comprising:

a means for acquiring environment information, which indicates indicating an environment in which the plurality of pieces of equipment is are installed, by a sensor or other equipment if necessary at least a predetermined time earlier than the time instant at which the information is notified; and

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a means for determining a way of notification method notifying an information to be notified a person of the information according to the acquired environment information and the contents of the information to be notified.

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6. (Currently Amended) Equipment used in forming a distributed system according to Claim 5, wherein the environment information is at least one of time information concerning the ability function of equipment, equipment information concerning equipment connected over the transmission medium, location information concerning the information notified of the person, a level of attention at which the information notified person is attracted attention, an object of attention to which the information notified person is attracted attention, identification information with

which the ~~information notified~~ person is identified, the contents or amount of information, information concerning an apparatus used to notify information, and ambient information concerning the plurality ~~of pieces~~ of equipment.

7. (Currently Amended) Equipment used in forming a distributed system according to Claim 5, further comprising a means for suspending notification of the information to be notified to the person of the information according to the environment information.

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J 8. (Currently Amended) Equipment used in forming a distributed system according to Claim 5, wherein the means for determining the ~~way of information~~ notification method carries out at least one of changing a condition for notification to ~~the information notified~~ the person of information according to the environment information, changing the contents of information, changing the apparatus used to notify information, changing a range of information notification, changing a priority given to information notification, changing the frequency of information notification, and splitting the contents of notified information.

9. (Currently Amended) A distributed system consisting of a plurality of ~~pieces of equipment~~, each of which is interconnected over a transmission medium and includes one or more arithmetic units, and notifying predetermined information, wherein:

at least one of the plurality of ~~pieces of equipment~~ comprises:

a means for acquiring environment information, which indicates indicating an environment in which the plurality of ~~pieces of equipment~~ are installed, at least a predetermined time earlier than the time instant at which before the time when the information is notified; and

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Z a means for determining a way of notification method notifying an information to be notified to the person of the information according to the acquired environment information and the contents of information to be notified before the time at when the information of the function is informed to the person.

10. (Currently Amended) A distributed system according to Claim 9, wherein the environment information is at least one of time information concerning the ability function of equipment, equipment information concerning equipment

connected over the transmission medium, location information concerning the information notified of the person, a level of attention at which the information notified person is attracted attention, an object of attention to which the information notified person is attracted attention, identification information with which the information notified person is identified, the contents or amount of information, information concerning an apparatus used to notify information, and ambient information concerning the plurality of pieces of equipment.

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J 11. (Currently Amended) Equipment forming used in a distributed system that consists of a plurality of pieces of equipment being interconnected over a transmission medium and including one or more arithmetic units and that notifies predetermined information to a person to be notified, comprising:

a memory in which programs are stored; and a processor, connected to the memory, for, based on to perform the programs, for acquiring environment information, which indicates indicating an environment in which of the plurality of pieces of equipment is installed, at least a predetermined time earlier than before the time instant at

which the information is notified to the person, and for determining a way of notifying notification method notifying the an-information notified to the person to be notified of the information according to the acquired environment information and the contents of information to be notified.

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12. (Currently Amended) Equipment forming used in a distributed system according to Claim 5, wherein the environment information is at least one of time information concerning the ability function of equipment, equipment information concerning equipment connected over the transmission medium, location information concerning the information notified person, a level of attention at which the information notified person is attracted attention, an object of attention to which the information notified person is attracted attention, identification information with which the information notified person is identified, the contents or amount of the information, information concerning an apparatus used to notify information, and ambient information concerning the plurality of pieces of equipment.

13. (Currently Amended) Equipment forming used in a distributed system according to Claim 12, wherein said

processor suspends notification of the ~~information notified~~ person of information according to the environment information.

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14. (Currently Amended) Equipment forming a distributed system according to Claim 11, wherein said processor carries out at least one of changing a condition for notification of the ~~information notified~~ person of the information according to the environment information, changing the contents of information, changing the apparatus used to notify information, changing a range of information notification, changing a priority given to information notification, changing the frequency of information notification, and splitting the contents of notified information.